



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Proposed Bill No. 5601

LCO No. 458

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:

REP. SPALLONE, 36th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER AND
AREAS OF NATURAL OR HISTORICAL INTEREST.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That chapter 477a of the general statutes be amended to require the
- 2 Commissioner of Environmental Protection to designate certain "Areas
- 3 of Natural or Historical Interest" within the Lower Connecticut River
- 4 Conservation Zone. Areas shall be chosen based on the following
- 5 nonexclusive criteria: (1) Existence of unique geologic or aquatic
- 6 features, (2) existence of ecologically important or endangered plant or
- 7 animal species, (3) historical value or interest, (4) suitability for
- 8 paddlecraft navigation, and (5) vulnerability to erosion due to boat
- 9 wake action. Policy goals for selection of areas shall include: (A)
- 10 Encouragement of safe use of human powered craft, (B) preservation
- 11 of vulnerable ecosystems, (C) protection of ecologically important or
- 12 endangered plant or animal species, (D) minimization of boat wake
- 13 damage, (E) reduction of motorboat noise and speed, and (F) education
- 14 of the public regarding areas of natural or historic interest in the Lower
- 15 Connecticut River Conservation Zone.

16 The commissioner shall designate such areas as slow-no-wake zones
17 and encourage paddlecraft and non-motorized vessel use in such areas
18 through publications, guides, signage and bouyage. The commissioner
19 shall ensure that such areas are adequately patrolled by marine
20 enforcement officers. There shall be a twenty-five-dollar surcharge
21 imposed by the commissioner if a boating law offense occurs in an
22 Area of Natural or Historic Interest and the surcharge shall be retained
23 by the commissioner for enforcement purposes. For a noise, speed or
24 slow-no-wake offense, the surcharge shall be fifty dollars for a first
25 offense and shall be increased by twenty-five dollars for each
26 additional offense.

Statement of Purpose:

To promote safe boating and preserve areas of natural beauty and historical value in the lower Connecticut River area.